

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 9, 13-26, 32, 36-49, 55, 59-61, 63, and 65-69 are pending.

Claims 16-18, 39-41, 62-64 are objected to because of dependency informalities.

Claims 1-13, 16, 18-36, 39, 41-59, 62, 64-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,640,193 in view of Kajitani et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,841,132.

Claims 14, 15, 17, 37-38, 40, 60-61, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,640,193 in view of Kajitani et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,841,132, in further view of Vitz et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,152,359.

An interview was conducted with the examiner on January 8, 2010. The undersigned is very grateful for the examiner's time and attention during the interview. Various proposed amendments were discussed in connection to the prior art.

The examiner explained that he believed the proposed claims recited subject matter that distinguished over the art of record, but that a new search would have to be conducted. Accordingly, the claims have been amended in accordance with the interview. The dependent claims have been amended to maintain consistency and conformity to Section 112.

A clean copy of the claims is provided below for the examiner's convenience. Also for convenience, the following claim sets are identified:

- independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 3, 9, and 14-23
- independent claim 24, dependent claims 25, 26, 32, and 36-46
- independent claim 47, dependent claims 48, 49, 55, 59-61, 63, and 65-69

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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